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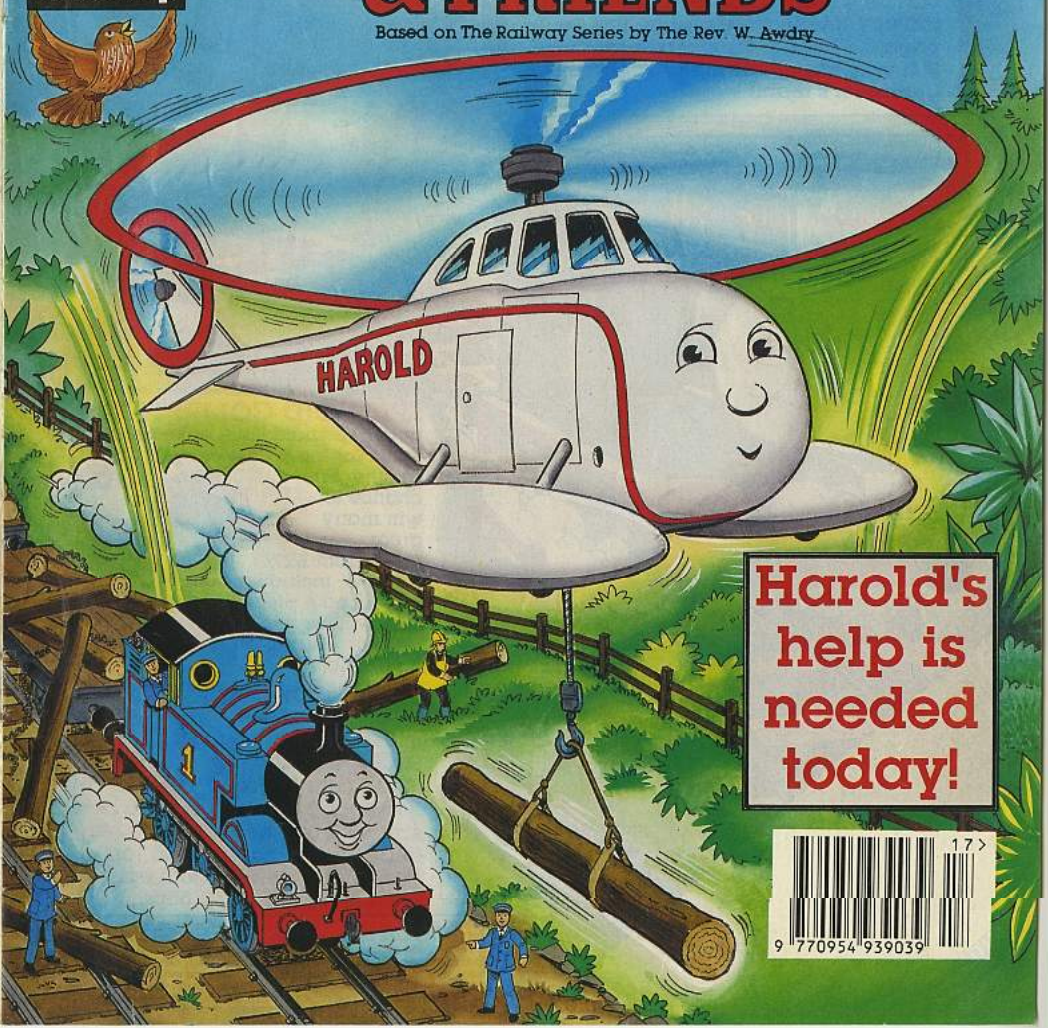
MARVEL®

25th April 1992
No118 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



Harold's help is needed today!

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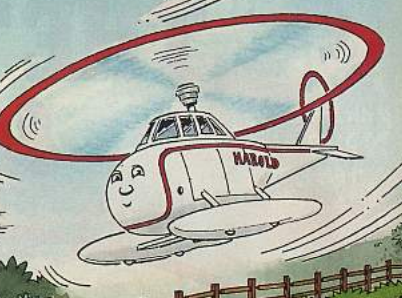
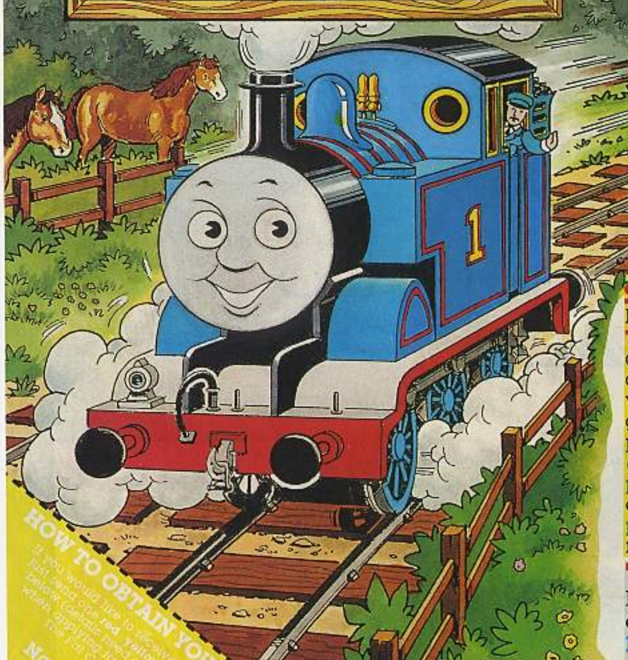
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! All of the Fat Controller's engines work very hard on the Island of Sodor and take great pride in their work. But the Fat Controller knows how important Harold the Helicopter can be when accidents happen on the railway. In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas discovers that Harold is a very important member of the Fat Controller's team!





SPLENDID COMPETITION!

In this splendid issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you have another fine chance to win many great prizes from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including both **6-piece** and **4 piece playsets** or a **3-piece miniature playset**. Turn to page 14 for details!

ERTL

THOMAS BACK ON TV!

Don't miss two new and exciting episodes of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** on *Network ITV* in the near future! **"Thomas, Percy, and the Dragon"** will be screened on *Tuesday April 14th*, and **"Diesel does it again"** on *Tuesday April 27th*. Both episodes will be screened at 3.55pm!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

Name ....

Address ....

Postcode .... Age ....

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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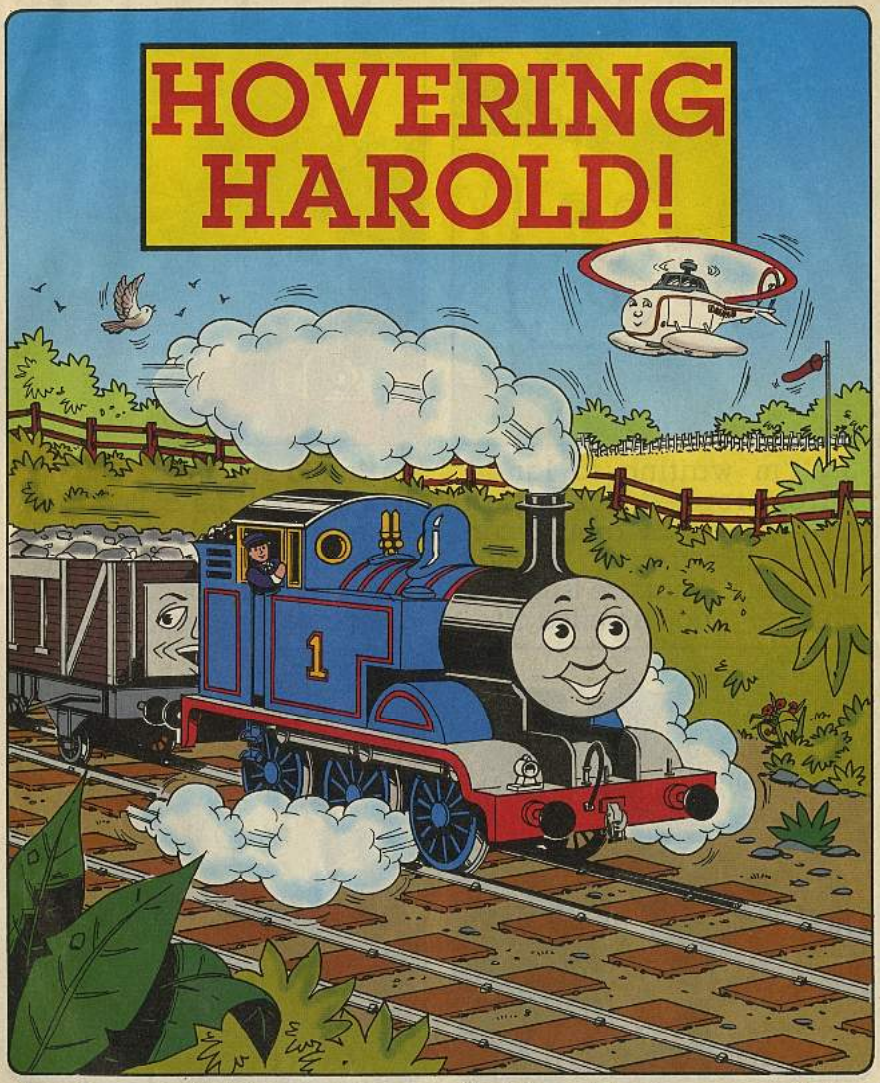
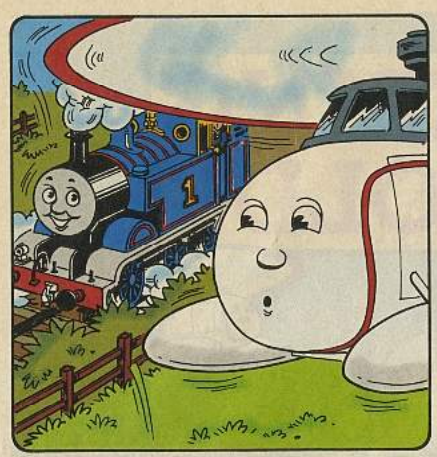
HOVERING HAROLD!



1. One bright morning, Thomas was puffing along his branch line. He was taking empty trucks to the Main Station. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas happily.

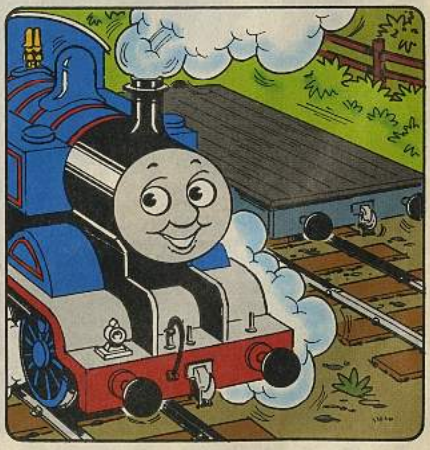
2. When Thomas passed the airfield, he saw Harold the Helicopter hovering in the sky. He slowed down. "Why are you hovering in the sky like that?" asked Thomas.



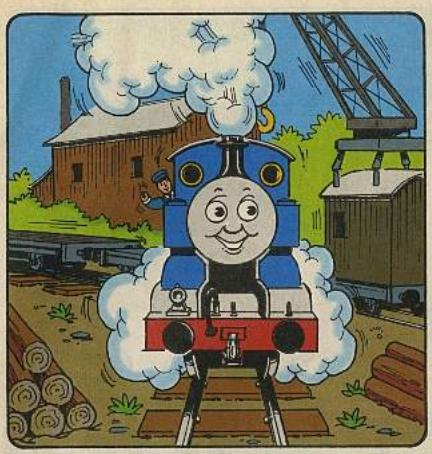
3. "I'm waiting to land," Harold replied. "Because I have big whirly arms, I can hover, like a bird!" Thomas laughed. "What use is that to anyone!" And he puffed off.

4. Harold felt cross. "Engines can't hover!" he called after Thomas. "I should think not," said Thomas. "I'm much too busy rushing along to stay in one place, like you, Harold!"

5. When Thomas arrived at the Main Station, the Fat Controller spoke to him. "I have another task for you," he said. "You are to collect some logs from the sawmill!"



6. "The Fat Controller chose me because I am a Really Useful Engine," Thomas thought, proudly. "You won't catch me hovering about like Harold, wasting time!"



7. Some flat trucks were coupled to Thomas and he puffed out of the yard. At the sawmill, Thomas stopped beside a big crane. It lifted the logs onto Thomas's trucks.

8. It was a very heavy load. The logs were secured by chains. "You must take these logs to the Big Harbour!" the sawmill manager told Thomas's driver.

9. Thomas puffed hard as he pulled the heavy trucks. He had only travelled a little way, when one of the chains snapped and lots of logs tumbled on to the track.

10. "Cinders and ashes!" cried Thomas, as he stopped. Thomas's driver and fireman climbed down on to the line. They wondered how to put the logs back on the truck.

11. Thomas's driver had an idea. He ran back to the sawmill, where the manager phoned the airfield for help. Soon Harold arrived. He hovered in the sky while his pilot looked for a spot for him to land. "Hello, Thomas," called Harold. "I'll put those logs back on the truck for you!" A thick rope was tied to Harold and he took off.

12. Harold hovered in the air, so the rope hung down. It was tied around the first log. Then Harold hovered a little higher to lift the log. Carefully he lowered it on to the truck. Then he lifted the next log until, one by one, they were all loaded again. "Hovering can be very useful, Thomas!" said Harold. Thomas had to agree!

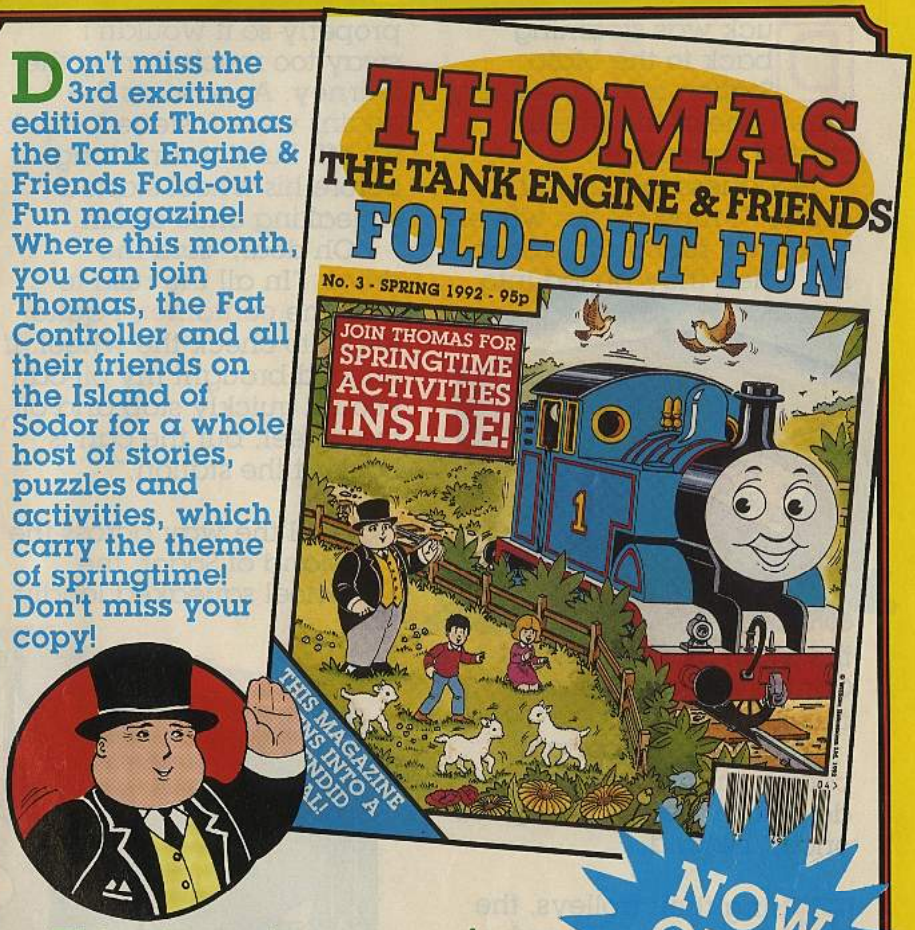
THE END

In our next issue: Thomas and the Pigeon!

JUMP ABOARD

THOMAS'S UNIQUE MAGAZINE!

Don't miss the 3rd exciting edition of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Fold-out Fun magazine! Where this month, you can join Thomas, the Fat Controller and all their friends on the Island of Sodor for a whole host of stories, puzzles and activities, which carry the theme of springtime! Don't miss your copy!



This charming magazine also opens into a splendid large mural for you to hang on your bedroom wall!

NOW ONLY 95p

The Squeaky

Duck was steaming back to the Main Station after a delivery when one of his wheels started squeaking.

"Goodness me", said his driver. "I must oil the wheels when we reach the station." But when they pulled into

container

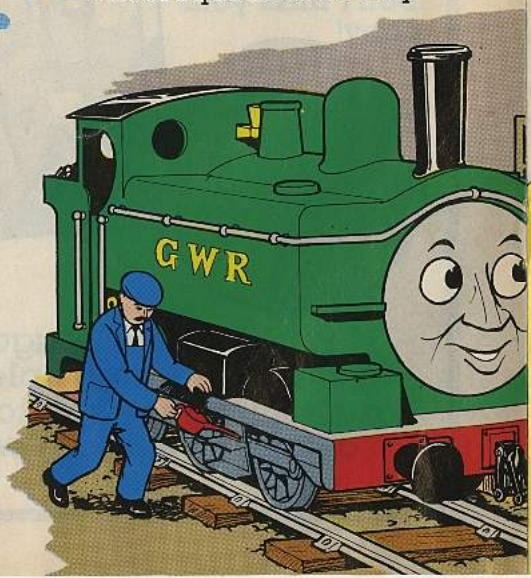
the Main Station, the Fat Controller approached quickly.

"There's an important container that you must deliver to the big garage at once," he said.

Using their trolleys, the station guards and porters wheeled a very large container towards Duck. Duck's driver helped to load the container into his truck and stack it properly so it wouldn't sway too much during the journey. As soon as the chains were fastened, Duck set off. But it wasn't long before his wheel started squeaking once again.

"Oh dear," said the driver. "In all the rush to load the container, I quite forgot to check the wheel. If only I'd brought my oil-can I could quickly stop and oil the wheel, but the can is back at the station."

So all the way across the Island of Sodor, the wheel squeaked loudly



Wheel!

at every turn.

"What a terrible noise," thought Duck. "If only we had some oil." Crossing the Island of Sodor on a passenger route, Gordon pulled alongside Duck.

"You sound more like a squeaking mouse than an engine today," said Gordon Such a dreadful sound! I can't stand it any longer. Goodbye!" Then Gordon put on an extra burst of speed and raced away.

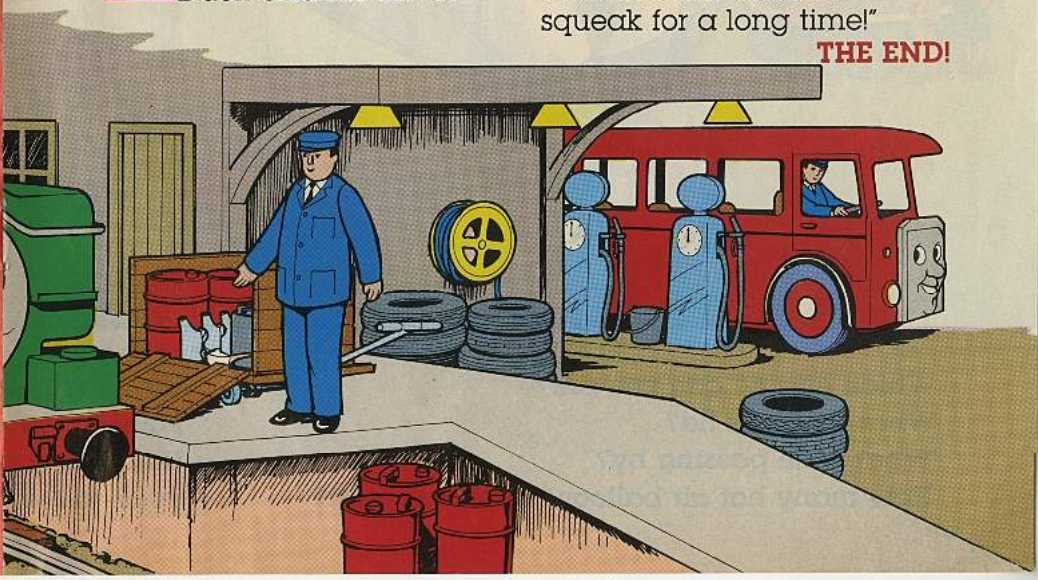
On arriving at the stop for the big garage, Duck and his driver were met by the garage owner. And what a surprise they had when he thanked them for the delivery.

"You're just in time with the new oil-cans as we've almost run out of oil at the garage," he said.

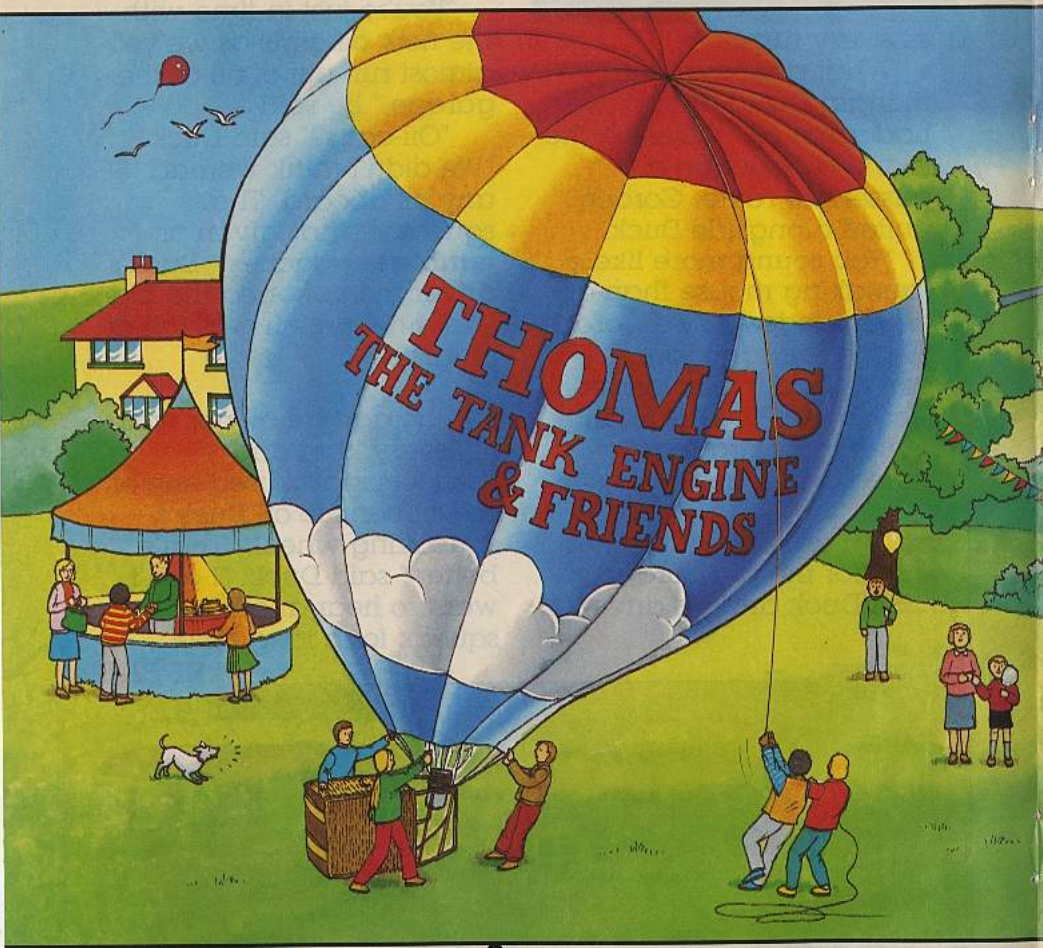
"Oil-cans?" said Duck. "We didn't think we had any oil aboard. That squeaking has given us terrible headaches." Duck's driver then opened the big container which was full of oil-cans.

The garage owner was very kind and personally used one of the oil-cans to oil Duck's squeaking wheel. "That's better," said Duck. "I don't want to hear another squeak for a long time!"

THE END!



Past the balloo



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is he passing by?
How many hot air balloons can you count?

How many st
Point to the h
How many p
Point to the c

on launching!

stalls can you see?

house!

people are in the park?

dog!

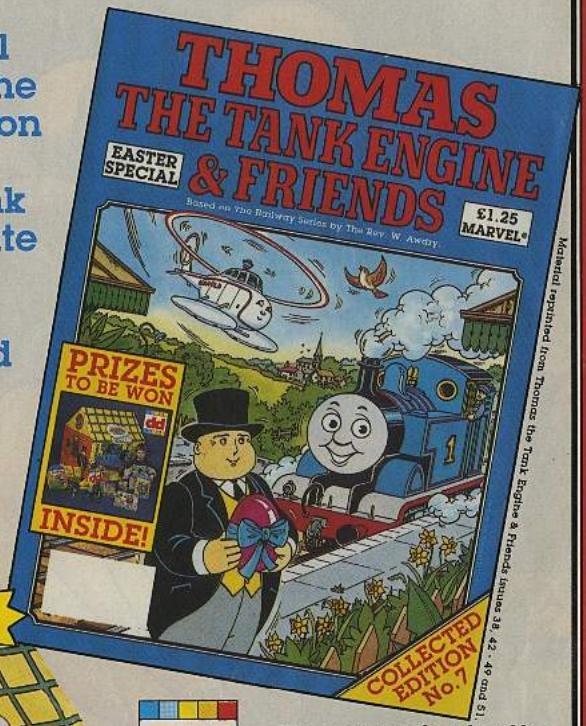
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Over the big bridge!

EASTER SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Peep! Peep! All aboard, for the latest compilation of some of Thomas the Tank Engine's favourite stories, puzzles and activities inside the brand new, splendid Collected Edition No. 7! Order your copy TODAY!



ON SALE NOW!

There's a fantastic competition, too! In which 10 lucky entrants will each win a splendid Thomas Playhouse, Backpack, Picture Blocks, Travel Bag, Duffle Bag, Vinyl Toys, Projector, Tap-a-Peg, Wipe Away and Humming Top!

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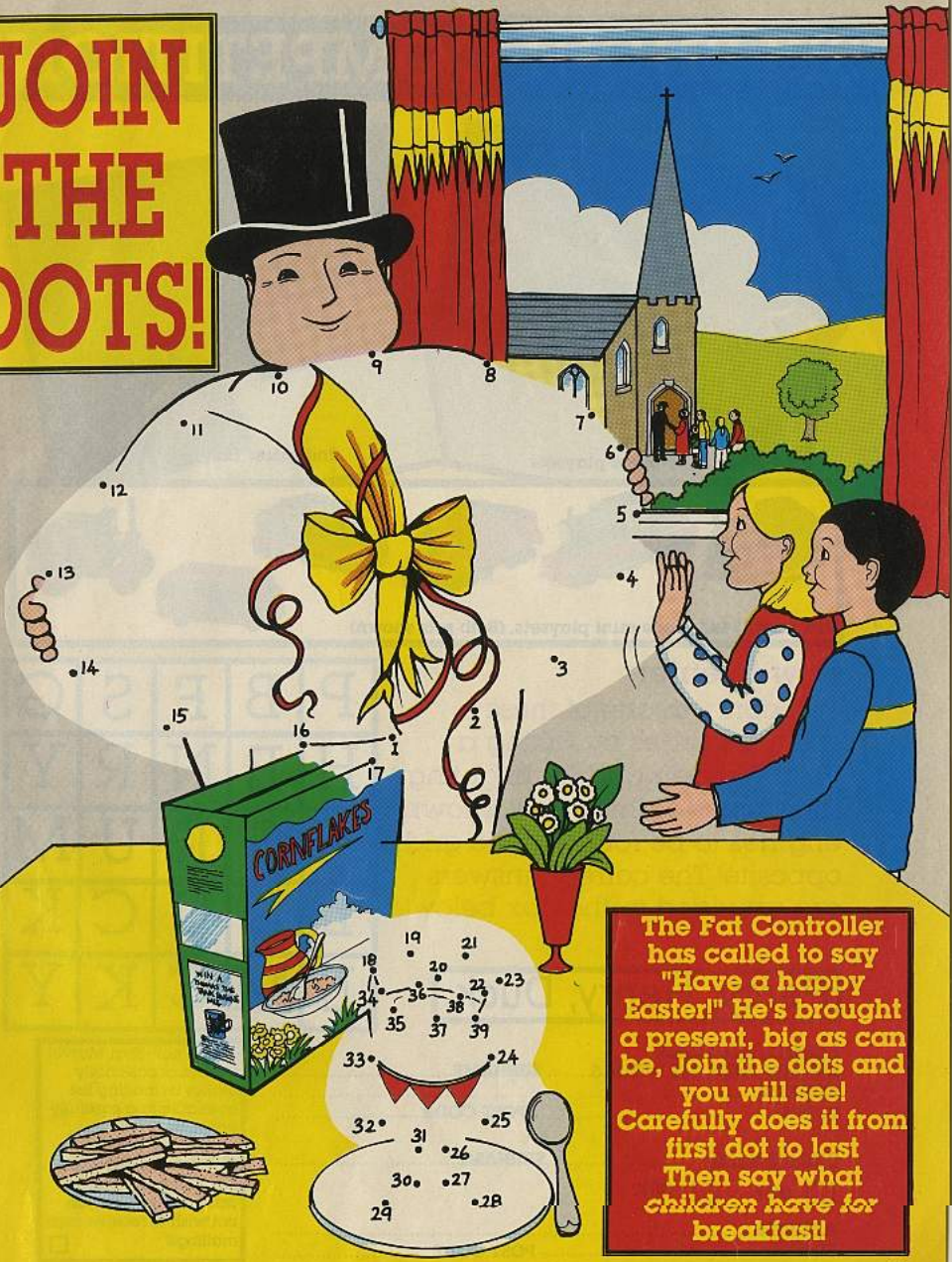
JOIN THE DOTS!



The Fat Controller has called to say "Have a happy Easter!" He's brought a present, big as can be, Join the dots and you will see! Carefully does it from first dot to last Then say what *children have for* breakfast!

SPLENDID COMPETITION!

1st prize: 12x6-piece playsets

2nd prize: 12x4-piece playsets

3rd prize: 24x3 piece mini playsets. (Both sets shown)

How to enter:

You can win one of these splendid prizes by taking a coloured pen and highlighting the names of three well known engines to be found in the grid opposite! The correct answers are provided in the box below!

P	B	F	S	G
H	E	N	R	Y
A	S	R	U	M
L	D	U	C	K
E	M	C	K	Y

Percy, Henry, Duck.

PARENT/GUARDIAN
MR/MRS/MISS/MS INITIALS..... SURNAME.....
ADDRESS.....
TOWN..... POST CODE.....

CHILD'S NAME..... SURNAME.....

☐ BOY ☐ GIRL

ADDRESS.....
TOWN..... POST CODE.....

Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive such mailings! ☐

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Gordon, the big blue engine looks so fine,
Pulling the coaches down the line.
He takes the passengers from station to station,
All of them off to their destination.
The children laugh and parents smile,
Gordon thinks; "This makes it all worth while!"
Love from **Gordon**, aged 3

For your splendid verse,
You will be given a special prize,
To write again would be very wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

JAMES'S TRUCKS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is James, and I like the story about **'James and the trucks'** when James came off the rails because his trucks pushed him too hard! I think they were being very naughty.
Love from **Benjamin**, aged 4.

Yes! I do believe that my trucks were being very troublesome in that story! As you know, James loves to pull shiny coaches but I often need him in the yard to shunt trucks!

DRIVER'S NAMES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I do like all your engines! But could you tell me the names of some of the drivers?
Love from **Daniel Berridge**, aged 3.

I have a very large staff of drivers on my railway. Too many to list. Two drivers I do know well are called Bob and Dave!

BIRTHDAYS!

Alice Medland, James Whittick, Edward James Howe, Scott McCarron (16879), Katie Adams, Stuart Bower (33976), Matthew Keith, Adam Brown, Graham Linfield, Guy Paul Ingram, Andrew Gough (38016), James Thomas Bowers, Matthew Jaycoack (17953), Ryan Daniel Collins, Kristopher Dobson, John Lamerton (32499), Adam Fitzgerald, Jason Whittington, Gennaro Ruocco (10592), Ewan Hoshek, Ben Cole Piper, Wynne Seaborne.

A very special belated birthday wish goes to **Ricky Booty**, aged 3 and **Jamie Booty**, aged 1!

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **9 weeks** in advance!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

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Alternatively, to qualify for this limited offer, ring our credit card hotline now, on **0858 410510**, quoting your credit card number plus order reference code.

ORDER FORM **0015Y/0016D**

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PARENT/GUARDIAN

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Initials..... Surname.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....

Child's name..... .....Surname.....Boy ☐
Address (if different from above) .....Girl ☐
.....Postcode.....

Date of birth ...../...../.....

I enclose a cheque for the amount £..... made payable to **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** or alternatively debit my credit card.

☐ Access
☐ Visa

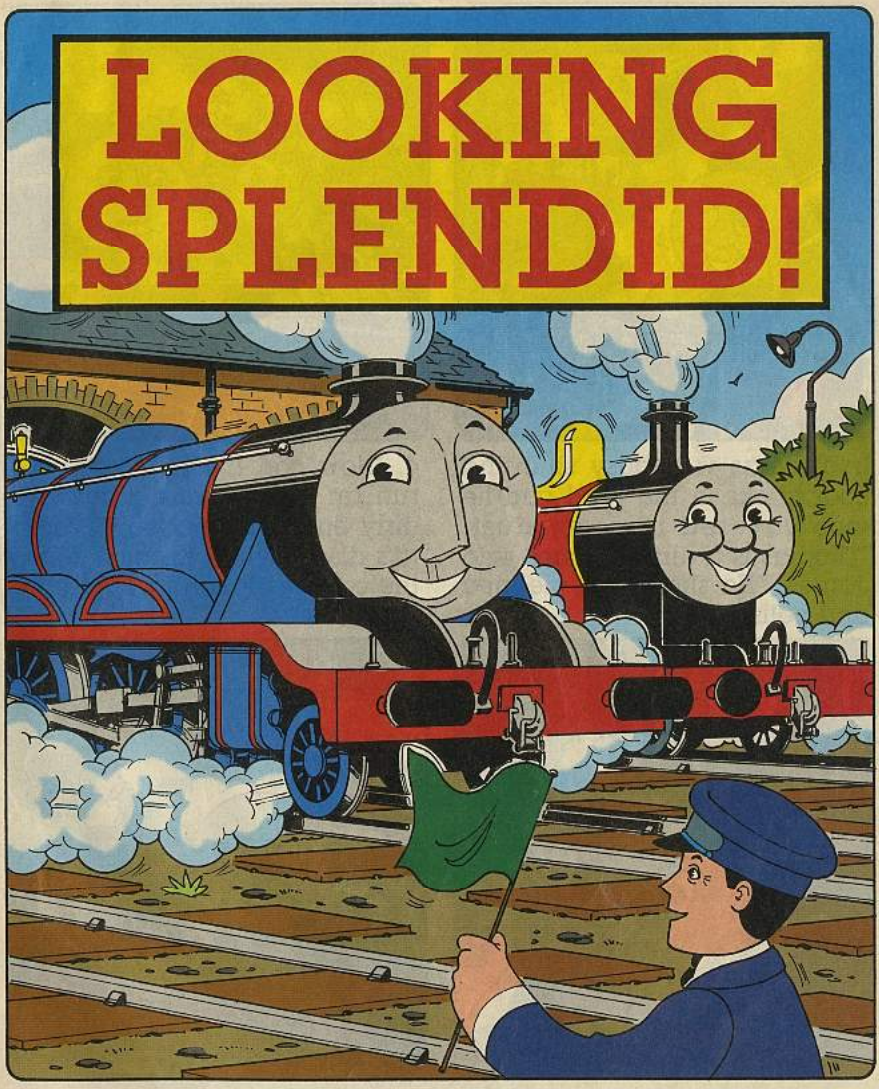
Expiry date
..../...../....

Signature .....

Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive such mailings. ☐

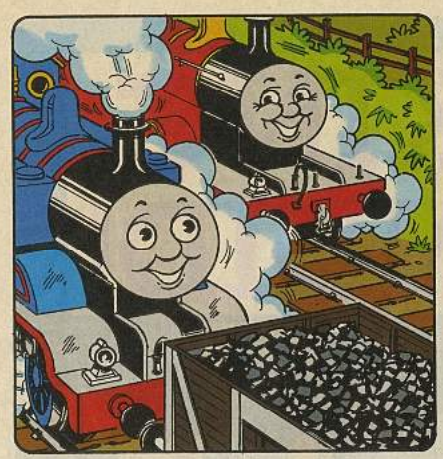
Please send this order form to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.

LOOKING SPLENDID!

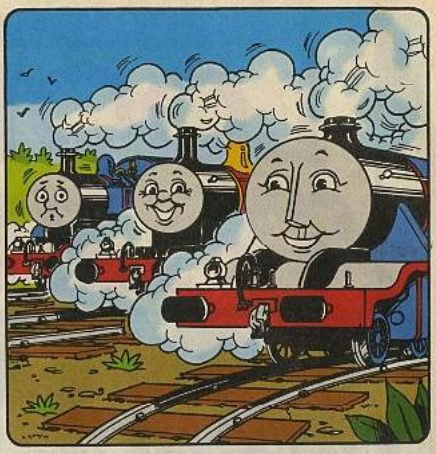


1. One morning, Gordon puffed out of the engine shed to pull the Express. His blue paintwork gleamed in the sun. "I am the most important engine", he said!

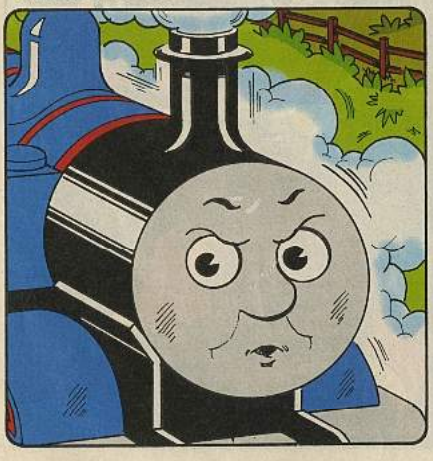
2. "So am I!" boasted James, who was very proud of his bright, red paint and shiny brass dome. "Passengers enjoy riding in my fine, clean coaches".



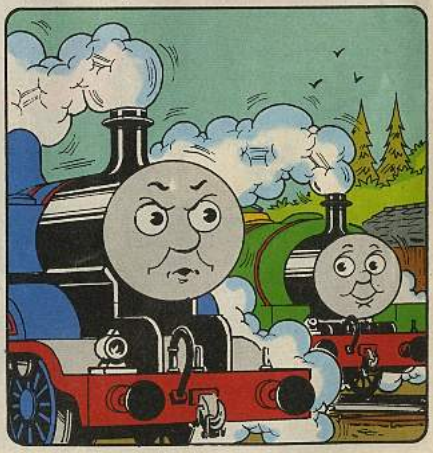
3. Thomas was busy shunting coal trucks in the yard and he was covered in sooty dust. "Thomas is a dirty engine!" said James. "He should be cleaned and polished!"



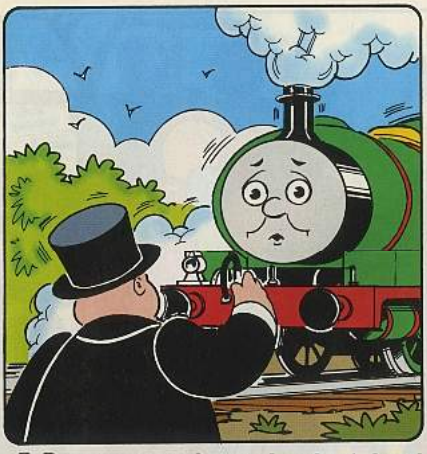
4. "How can the Fat Controller run an efficient railway with dirty engines?" puffed Gordon. "It's disgraceful!" Thomas heard the engines talking about him. He felt upset!



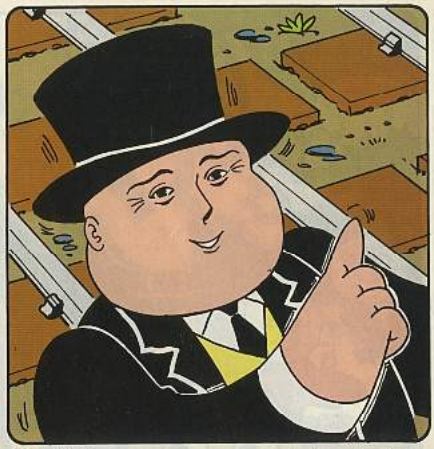
5. "Usually, my paintwork is clean," said Thomas. "It's not my fault! I have been pushing and pulling grimy coal trucks all week! Gordon and James laughed.



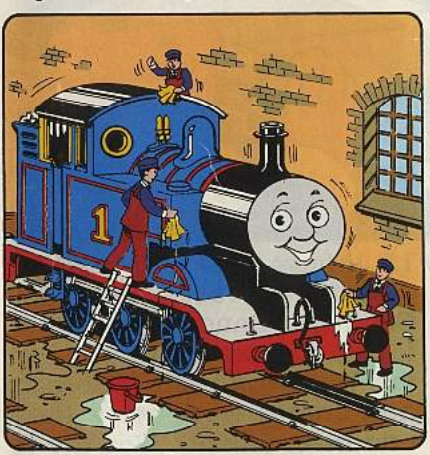
6. "A little tank engine like you could never be as fine as we are!" they told Thomas. James and Gordon think they are more important than the other engines!" fumed Thomas.



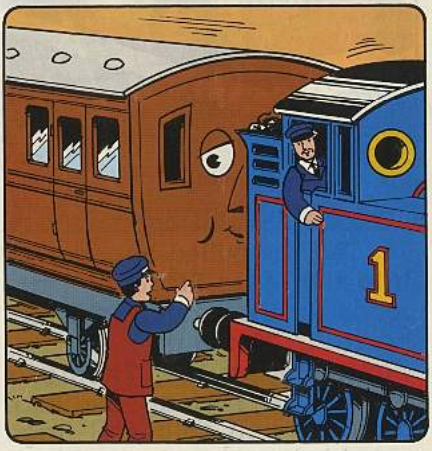
7.Percy overheard what had happened, he told the Fat Controller. It's not fair, sir! Thomas is only dirty because he is busy!" the Fat Controller agreed and spoke to Thomas.



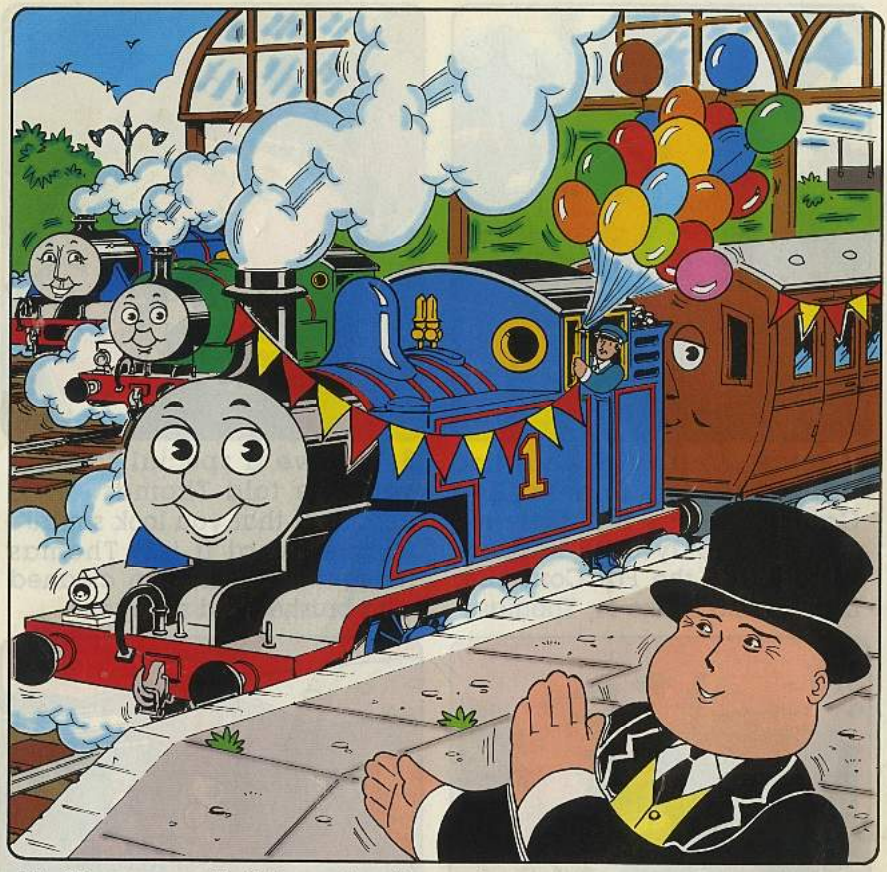
8. "I have a special task for you", he told Thomas. "It is important that you look smart!"I wonder what it is?" Thomas thought. He was soon cleaned with brushes and sponges.



9.After Thomas had been washed and scrubbed. He felt much more cheerful. He liked being a clean engine with really shiny, sparkling paintwork.



10. "Just wait until James and Gordon see me!" thought Thomas, proudly. Soon, he was coupled to his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel.They looked clean too!



11. Thomas pulled importantly into the Main Station. "I am ready for the special task, sir!" he said. "Not quite!" the Fat Controller smiled. Thomas's driver and fireman tied big, balloons and colourful flags onto his funnel and cab. When James and Gordon returned from pulling their trains, they were surprised indeed to see Thomas looking so fine.

12. "I have picked Thomas for a special task!" the Fat Controller announced. "He is to pull the passenger train to the Wellsworth fête". Gordon and James were sorry they had been unkind. "You are so clean Thomas!" they said. "You do look splendid!" "Little engines can be just as smart as big engines" Percy pointed out!

THE END

In our next issue: The Railway Open day!